

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7596

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1520

E.O. 11562: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GR

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES

1. SUMMARY. CARAMANLIS ANNOUNCED THE FIRST CHANGES IN HIS POST-ELECTION CABINET ON FEBRUARY 22. TALENTED JOHN BOUTOS MOVED FROM COMMERCE TO NUMBER TWO POSITION IN COORDINATION MINISTRY, RELIEVING WORK PRESSURE ON PAPALIGOURAS. VASSILIOS DHERDHEMEZIS, WHO HAD BEEN UNDER GROWING PRESS CRITICISM FOR HIS RELATIONS WITH THE JUNTA, WAS REPLACED AT SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTRY BY CHRYSANTHOPOULOS, NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTY FROM ATHENS; AND ATHANASIOS TALIADOULOS, ND DEPUTY FROM KARDITSA, BECAME THE NEW UNDER SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND RELIGION, REPLACING PROFESSOR DIMITRIOS EVRYGHENIS WHOM THE GOG HAS NOMINATED AS CANDIDATE-JUDGE FOR THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN STRASBOURG. NUMBER TWO IN MFA, JOHN VARVITSIOTIS, REPLACED BOUTOS AT COMMERCE WHERE HE MAY HAVE MORE SCOPE THAN HAD BEEN ALLOWED HIM IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, A FIELD THAT HE WAS STILL LEARNING.

GOG SAID IT WILL NAME A NEW UNDER SECRETARY FOR MFA WITHIN FEW DAYS AND ATHENS PRESS IS UNANIMOUS IN ASSUMING IT
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WILL BE COSTAS STAVROPOULOS, CURRENTLY HEADING THE GREEK

DELEGATION TO UNSC. BIOGRAPHICS ON THE NEW CABINET
OFFICIALS FOLLOW.

2. CONSTANTINE CHRYSANTHOPOULOS, MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES, WAS BORN IN 1910 IN THE PELEPONOSUS. A LAW GRADUATE OF ATHENS UNIVERSITY, HE JOINED MINISTRY NATIONAL ECONOMY IN 1935 AND LATER MINISTRY OF LABOR WHERE HE SERVED AS SECRETARY GENERAL 1957-1958. HE LAUNCHED POLITICAL CAREER IN 1958 WHEN ELECTED DEPUTY ON CARAMANLIS' TICKET (ERE) FROM ATHENS; REELECTED 1961 AND 1963. SERVED CARAMANLIS AS UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FROM 1958-1961 AND MINISTER LABOR 1961-1963. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS A SON. SPEAKS ENGLISH. CHRYSTANTHOPOULOS HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE IN LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS, ALTHOUGH HE IS PROBABLY LESS QUALIFIED THAN THE MAN HE REPLACES, DHERDHEMEZIS, A PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR WHO FELL AFOUL OF THE DEJUNTIZATION CAMPAIGN BECAUSE HE SERVED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTRY DURING THE JUNTA. RESIGNATION OF LATTER WAS ATTRIBUTED TO POOR HEALTH, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT RESIGNED HIS PARLIAMENTARY SEAT.

3. ATHANASIOS TALIADOULOS, UNDER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND RELIGION, WAS BORN IN 1918 IN KARDITSA. STUDIED LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE AT ATHENS UNIVERSITY. HE IS LONG TIME POLITICAL FIGURE, FIRST ELECTED IN 1946 FROM HIS HOME REGION IN TRIKALA AND SUBSEQUENTLY ELECTED EIGHT TIMES, INCLUDING LAST NOVEMBER. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH PARTIES OF THE RIGHT AND SERVED AS UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE IN THE 1954-1955 PAPAGOS CABINET AND AGAIN FROM 1961-63 UNDER CARAMANLIS. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY VARIOUS OBSERVERS AS "AFFABLE," "HARMLESS," "A BACKSLAPPER," "HONEST," HIS FIRST UNDER SECRETARY POSITION GARNERED IN 1954 WAS ATTRIBUTED TO HIS FRIENDLY MANNER WHICH "OFFENDS NO ONE AND HE WILL ALWAYS BE GOOD FRONT MAN AND NOTHING ELSE."
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